

CURRENT TOPICS

W. M. MORGAN, member of the Colorado state senate, addressed the joint legislative convention March 6 and charged that James N. Herbert, vice president and general manager of the Colorado and Southern railway and Daniel Sullivan, postmaster at Cripple Creek, offered to pay \$1,500 for an Adams vote in connection with the gubernatorial contest. Subsequently eight informations charging bribery and conspiracy were filed against Herbert and Sullivan in the criminal court. The accused men deny that they offered a bribe and declare that Morgan solicited from them a bribe of \$3,000 which he subsequently shaved to \$1,500 but which they refused to give.

IT IS also charged that the fund was raised by the corporations for the purpose of raising votes for Peabody, but no notice has been taken of these charges, by the legislature. Upon motion of B. J. O'Connell, a committee of five was appointed by the joint convention to make a thorough investigation. Governor Adams, referring to these charges, says: "I do not believe the charges. I believe they are part of the political game. Senator Morgan volunteered the information that he would vote for me."

FRANK J. CANNON, formerly United States senator for Utah, has been expelled from the Mormon church, because he wrote two editorials in the Salt Lake Tribune in which articles he attacked President Joseph H. Smith. Cannon admitted writing the editorials and declined to retract them. He declared that the course of President Smith, if continued, would be sure to work great hardship to the Mormon people and maintained that all his charges against Smith were true. In his testimony, Mr. Cannon said: "I do not think Joseph F. Smith is a prophet of God. I think his idol is mammon."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT sent to the senate on March 6 a special message relating to the Santo Domingo treaty. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that more than one-third of the republican senators and practically all of the democratic are opposed to the treaty in its present form. This correspondent adds: "The senate is suspicious of the whole subject and is inclined to drop the Santo Domingo proposition without much ceremony. There is a feeling in the senate that a dangerous precedent would be created, that the United States would be forced into a protectorate of the island sooner or later, and that the treaty will be only the beginning of a series of similar agreements with foreign countries. It cannot be said there is any personal animosity toward the president displayed by the senate, but there is a distinct feeling that the policy he has outlined in regard to Santo Domingo is not entirely a wise one. Instead of feeling that the president is shaking the big stick or is adopting a policy which is too aggressive in regard to the Spanish-American bankrupt republics, there is a growing belief among both republican and democratic senators that the state department has gone at the problem wrong end to, and that it has failed to meet the emergency in Santo Domingo, which sooner or later must be met not only there but in Venezuela and the other little republics."

THERE is a disposition among senators to serve notice on Europe once and for all that the collection of debts due from American republics to European individuals by force of arms, will no longer be tolerated by the United States. Referring to this disposition, the Tribune correspondent says: "This is a radical advance on the Monroe doctrine, of course, but the situation in Santo Domingo and Venezuela rapidly is influencing many people to believe that the promulgation of this new doctrine is the only way to prevent a series of attacks upon the independence of these insolvent Spanish-American states either by the United States or by European nations. Every one knows that practically all the claims against the Spanish-American countries were entered into by money sharks and adventurers with a full under-

standing of the fact that the security was of the worst and that the chance of being paid even the interest always was small. Every sandbagging improvement company and every combination of speculative European bankers which has ever gone into Spanish-American finances has done so with a full understanding of the situation. The par value of the debt in almost every instance is far in excess of the money actually received. One series of bonds has been increased deliberately in many cases by foreign speculators who believed that when the par value was large enough their own governments would be induced to take a hand and help them collect their money by force of arms."

THE Kansas state senate adopted resolutions March 6, in which resolutions the federal department of commerce and labor is bitterly criticised. These resolutions say that: "In spite of the fact that the members of said trust in twenty-five years, by the operations of said trust, have accumulated fortunes beyond the dreams of avarice, the Garfield report says that the trust 'is now doing business on a margin so small that there is little or no profit.' The resolution says: 'We request the president of the United States to reject this report and appoint some man with experience, independence, and nerve that shall qualify him for the task of investigating this gang of commercial highwaymen, known as the beef trust, to the end that the public may be informed fully as to the sources of the enormous profits and foundations of their colossal fortunes, and the means, instruments, and agreements by which for a generation they have robbed both purchaser and consumer, to the end that legislation protecting both may be devised intelligently, and that the light of publicity—that light that is destructive of all trusts and combinations—may be thrown upon the operations of this vicious and iniquitous conspiracy.'"

IN dealing with the merits of the Garfield report, the resolutions adopted by the Kansas state senate declare: "The cattle industry of Kansas has been declining steadily for the last seven years, the price of cattle going lower and lower under the operations of this trust, so there no longer is any fixed relation between the price of beef and the price of corn, and as this reduction of price has gone to such an extent that there is no longer any profit in feeding cattle for market, and at the same time the price of beef on the block is being advanced constantly to the consumer. The producer of cattle knows there is but one market and one purchaser for his product, a market that he must accept and a purchaser with whom he must deal or lose his entire investment. The purchaser knows there is but one market in which he can buy one of the necessities of life, and that he must buy of the beef trust at whatsoever price it may fix, however spolitative, or become a vegetarian; and, every fact known to the public is contradictory of this alleged investigation and report, and believing said report is entitled to no credit, faith, or confidence, and believing that it has been made without sufficient care, and that the commission has been misled and deceived."

THE fortieth anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Adamsky was held recently in New York city. Mr. Adamsky is 63 years of age and his wife 61. He served throughout the civil war and toward its close was severely wounded. Mr. and Mrs. Adamsky have many children and grandchildren. An invitation was sent to Dr. William Osler, the famous physician who recently declared that men over forty years of age were practically useless, while those over 60 years of age should be chloroformed. This invitation was accompanied by the following letter: "While we deem it unlikely that you will find time to accept the invitation, still we would be charmed to have you with us to help us celebrate the fortieth anniversary of our wedding. According to your philosophy, I should have taken chloroform many months ago. We have been married for as many years as are contained in your estimate of the span

of man's usefulness, and yet we continue to find much joy in living and feel very sure that we would be missed by our loved ones if your novel theory were put into practice. We are hale and hearty and happy and have by no means outlived the period of our usefulness. We trust that you may feel as well when you have attained our years."

CHICAGO'S municipal campaign is growing more and more interesting. A Chicago dispatch to the New York World under date of March 5 says: "Joseph Medill Patterson has resigned as editor of the Chicago Tribune, simultaneously announcing that he will take the stump for Judge Edward F. Dunne, the Democratic candidate for mayor, who is running on a municipal ownership platform. Two years ago Mr. Patterson was elected to the legislature as a republican, and distinguished himself there as a friend of municipal ownership and reform."

R. W. PATTERSON, editor of the Tribune, and father of Joseph Medill Patterson, has issued a statement, in which he says that his son's retirement was entirely voluntary and that they had ceased to be associated in business 'because an honest difference of opinion had arisen between them.' Joseph Medill Patterson is a Yale graduate. In a newspaper interview he says: "The traction question is the only issue in this campaign. John M. Harlan stands for private ownership of the street car lines, and he promises franchises to the traction companies. Judge Dunne stands for municipal ownership of the street railway lines and has pointed out the way to this end. I believe in municipal ownership, and therefore I shall aid Judge Dunne's campaign in every way possible."

THE franchise under which all the surface traction companies in Chicago now operate have expired and the lines are being carried on under licenses until a settlement with the city shall be effected. This issue is paramount in the mayoralty election to be held the first Tuesday in April. A Chicago correspondent for the New York World says that the indications point to Judge Dunne's election, and adds: "Mr. Patterson's attitude is held to be indicative of the turning of thousands of younger republicans and the younger voters of Chicago generally to Judge Dunne and the campaign to save Chicago's streets from the J. Pierpont Morgan and Wall street traction crowd, to whom Harlan has surrendered. R. W. Patterson said: 'I have great respect for the sincerity of my son's convictions, but I think he has acted without giving the subject all the consideration its importance deserved. The Tribune will continue to give its hearty support to Mr. Harlan.' Judge Dunne said: 'Mr. Patterson, jr., has for a number of years been interested in the practicability of municipal ownership, and on finding himself convinced in regard to the question he has shown himself strong enough to break away from the influences of his gilt-edged surroundings. He is a type of the young American with lofty convictions and force of character which is breaking away from plutocratic environments and capitalistic surroundings.'"

WASHINGTON correspondents appear to believe that Mr. Roosevelt is approaching an open break with his party leaders. The correspondent for the New York World, under date of Mar. 5, says: "President Roosevelt begins his administration with the hostility of congress well developed, and the indications are that before the close of his four-year term he will be more bitterly antagonized than was Grover Cleveland, who retired with only three Senators of his own party left to defend his policies. The Fifty-eighth congress, at the three-month session, which closed at noon yesterday, ignored and rebuked the president as no previous body of legislators has ever done. Nearly every recommendation made by the chief executive was ridiculed and rejected. Apparently all required to defeat a measure was the knowledge that the president urged and approved it."